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Resolved,—That the income of the Stott legacy be applied to the payment of the expense of publication of papers ordered by the Academy for the Journal.

The Auditors reported that they had examined the Report of the Treasurer for 1851, and had found it correct.

The Academy then proceeded to an election for Standing Committees for 1852. The Tellers announced the following result:—

Ethnology, John S. Phillips, James C. Fisher, Robert Pearsall; *Comparative Anatomy and General Zoology,* Joseph Leidy, Edward Hallowell, John Neill; *Mammalogy,* James C. Fisher, E. J. Lewis, S. W. Woodhouse; *Ornithology,* John Cassin, Edward Harris, T. B. Wilson; *Herpetology and Ichthyology,* E. Hallowell, John Cassin, William Keller; *Conchology,* Isaac Lea, T. B. Wilson, W. S. W. Ruschenberger; *Entomology and Crustacea,* S. S. Haldeman, Robert Bridges, Wm. S. Zantzinger; *Botany,* R. Bridges, Wm. S. Zantzinger, Gavin Watson; *Palæontology,* T. A. Conrad, Joseph Leidy, B. Howard Rand; *Geology,* J. Price Wetherill, Theodore F. Moss, Aubrey H. Smith; *Mineralogy,* Wm. S. Vaux, Samuel Ashmead, Charles M. Wetherill; *Physics,* Benj. H. Coates, James C. Fisher, Wm. Parker Foulke; *Library,* Thomas B. Wilson, Robert Bridges, Robert E. Peterson; *Proceedings,* Wm. S. Zantzinger, Joseph Leidy, W. S. W. Ruschenberger.

ELECTION.

Samuel Webber, M. D., of Charlestown, N. Hampshire, was elected a *Correspondent,* and Caspar W. Sharpless, of Philadelphia, was elected a *Member* of the Academy.

February 3d.

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

The following communication was read from Henry A. Ford, M. D., dated Glasstown, Gaboon River, West Africa, Nov. 10th, 1851, on the characteristics of the Troglodytes Gorilla, accompanying the very fine skeleton of that animal presented by him to the Academy, and announced this evening.

"The skeleton that I have the honor of presenting to your Society, is that of the newly discovered species of Orang, which was first described by Drs. Savage and Wyman, (in the Boston Journal of Natural History, 1847) and by them called Troglodytes Gorilla, and by the natives on this coast, "Ngena."

The earliest distinct notice of this species of Orang was made, I believe, by Bowditch in 1817, on his return from his Ashantee Mission in a vessel that visited this river on its passage to England from Cape Coast Castle. His description, though in many respects incorrect, doubtless refers to this species, as the name and locality sufficiently identify the animal he describes with the specimen I have obtained.*

I would also remark here, that all subsequent information, as well as all the specimens in the hands of Europeans, have been obtained in this river.

This animal inhabits the range of mountains that traverse the interior of

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* See Mission to Ashantee by T. Edward Bowditch Esq., 4to, London, 1819. Chapter on Gaboon River.

Guinea, from the Cameroons on the north to Angola on the south, and about 100 miles inland, and called by Geographers Crystal Mountains. The limit to which this animal extends either north or south, I am unable to define. But that limit is doubtless some distance north of this river. I was able to certify myself of this fact in a late excursion to the head waters of the Mooney (Darger) river, which comes into the sea some 60 miles from this place. I was informed (credibly I think) that they were numerous among the mountains in which that river rises, and far north of that. In the south this species extends to the Congo river, as I am told by native traders who have visited the coast between the Gaboon and that river. Beyond that I am not informed. This animal is only found at a distance from the coast in most cases, and according to my best information, approaches it nowhere so nearly as on the south side of this river, where they have been found within ten miles of the sea. This, however, is only of late occurrence. I am informed by some of the oldest Nysorgine men that formerly he was only found on the sources of the river, but that at present he may be found within half a day's walk of its mouth.

Formerly, he inhabited the mountainous ridge where Bushmen alone inhabited, but now he boldly approaches the Nysorgine plantations. This is doubtless the reason of the scarcity of information in years past, as the opportunities for receiving a knowledge of this animal have not been wanting:—traders having for 100 years frequented this river, and specimens, such as have been brought here within a year, could not have been exhibited without having attracted the attention of the most stupid.

I shall not attempt in this sketch to give the osteology of the Ngena—as the skeleton itself will demonstrate that. I will, however, make some remarks upon his appearance and habits, color and hair.

At adult age the Ngena is of a dark or iron gray color—the hair being black at its extremities, but white next the skin, which produces the grizzly appearance I have described. In a young one that I have seen, it was black down to the skin like that of the Troglodytes Niger. I am informed by one of the head men of this tribe, that they sometimes are found white. He had seen one of this description to the N. E. of this at the foot of the mountains. This may have been the effect of old age, as the animal is reported to have been full sized. It is a general opinion that it becomes lighter by age.

The hair differs from that of the Troglodytes Niger, in its greater thickness and length. On the neck, back and limbs, it is not less than six inches. It also presents a more shaggy appearance from its slight curl at the extremities. The length of hair, together with the thickness of skin and the great developement of muscle hereafter to be described, give the Ngena a hugeness that can hardly be conceived from a simple examination of the skeleton.

Bowditch's assertion that he was apparently four feet in diameter through the shoulders is as correct as most other statements in his book. The specimen sent was three and a half feet from the extremity of the hair on one shoulder to that on the other, and yet this is by no means the largest specimen that has been obtained.

Skin.—The skin is very thick on the exposed parts of the body. On the arms, shoulders, back and limbs, the thickness is one fourth of an inch; on the head over the crest three fourths of an inch thick; the great thickness prevented my preserving it.

Head—The most prominent feature in the fresh subject, as well as in the skeleton, is the crest or ridge in the course of the parieto-parietal *suture*, increasing in height from before backwards to a point directly over the intersection of this suture with the occipito-parietal—which is the highest point. This crest is not chiefly formed by the bony ridge on the skull, but by the thickness of the scalp before mentioned, and by the length and stiffness of the hair, which is always erect.

This crest the animal when enraged is said to draw forward, giving him an appearance more fierce than ordinary, which is frightful enough. This crest gives the face and head a more anthropoid appearance than the dried skull presents. This projection gives it the appearance of a forehead. The face, unlike that of the

Chimpanzee, is covered with short hair, except about the mouth and nose. The eyes are moderately large, not prominent, of a dark chestnut color. The nose is broad, projecting a very little above the surface of the face. The alæ are of thin and loose skin, capable of considerable distension. The mouth is very wide —the upper lip thick and hairless. The lower lip is a huge muscular flop, very distensible, which the animal drops over his chin when he is enraged, making his appearance exceedingly terrific.

The ears are disproportionally small; they are hairless and stand out from the head. The muscles of the head are large, filling up a large part of the depressions between the ridges of the scull. The auricular group not large, but the temporal, pterygoid and masseter muscles are of great strength, as might be supposed from the size of the inferior maxillary bone. The neck is of moderate length, but of great size, chiefly owing to the great length of the spinous processes of the several vertebræ, but increased by the thickness of skin and length of hair. The circumference of neck of this specimen was one foot and ten inches.

The chest is narrow anteriorly and superiorly, but the contents of the entire cavity large, the lower end of the sternum projecting, and the sternal cartilages, except the first three, long. The circumference of the chest, after the evacuation of the thorax and abdominal viscera, was four feet four inches. These viscera were evacuated by the natives before I received the body. All the muscles of the chest are largely developed, as are also all the muscles of the trunk.

The arms, it will be seen from the skeleton, are longer in proportion to the trunk, than are those of the small Chimpanzee, and are covered with a great weight of muscle.

At the insertion of the deltoid the circumference in this specimen was one foot and four inches. The fore arm also is well supplied and covered with hair. The circumference of the wrist was one foot.

The palm of the hand was large, while the fingers and thumb appeared small in proportion to the strength of the arm and fore arm. The palm and surface of the hand and fingers is covered with a thick black skin very little adherent to the true skin beneath, and in appearance resembling a leathern glove. It was removed entire, after maceration. The dorsal surface is covered with hair. The abdomen is large, and covered with lighter colored hair than the back.

The genital organs, in both male and female, are small, but in other respects similar to the smaller species.

This animal is tailless and has no calosities. The lower limbs are very short and slightly curved, but the most remarkable peculiarity is the size of the muscles which cover the femur, *i. e.* those having their origin on the anterior and inferior surface of the pelvis, and their insertion on the femur, together with the extensors and flexors of the legs. Their weight in this case was 18 lbs. The muscles of the leg and foot are not as fully developed as those of the thigh. In the shape of the foot he resembles other Orangs. The weight of this specimen was 170 lbs. without the thoracic, abdominal and pelvic viscera.

Food. He feeds on the various roots and fruits found in the forest. He is, however, to some extent carnivorous, according to my most reliable information.

When man is his prey, he devours him as he does animals that he can catch, though his sluggishness prevents his taking many animals as prey.

The Ngena generally walks on all fours, with his feet placed flat on the ground, like a man, the thighs being flexed upon the leg, at an acute angle.

The open hands are placed on the ground posteriorly and externally to the feet, the arms being nearly parallel to the axis of the body, and thus supporting the body posteriorly to the feet, and not anteriorly, as some have supposed. They act the part of hind rather than fore feet.

The gait is an oscillating motion, caused by carrying forward the extremities of one side at a time, while the body is balanced to the opposite side; then alternately moving the other limbs with a return motion of the body. This is the movement I have seen in the young animal. Besides this gait, I am led to believe that in the forest he has a semi-erect posture, supporting himself by bushes and trees as they come in his way.

He sometimes walks erect, and always rises on his feet when making an attack, though he approaches his antagonist in the stooping posture.

The Ngena is represented as the most terrible monster of his native forests. His appearance is hideous even when dead. Among the natives he is the subject of many allegories, in which he acts some distinguished part, perhaps that of a king or a conqueror—perhaps a defender or a destroyer. In the forests he seems to be the implacable enemy of man.

Though he never lies in wait, yet when he hears, sees or scents a man, he immediately utters his characteristic cry, prepares for an attack, and always acts on the offensive. The cry that he utters resembles a grunt more than a growl, and is similar to the cry of the Chimpanzee when irritated, but vastly louder. It is said to be audible at a great distance. His preparation consists in attending the females and young ones, by which he is usually accompanied, to a little distance. He, however, soon returns with his crest erect and projecting forward, his nostrils dilated and his under lip thrown down, at the same time uttering his characteristic yell, designing, it would seem, to terrify his antagonist; instantly, unless he is disabled by a well directed shot, he makes an onset, and striking his antagonist with the palm of his hands, or seizing him with a grasp from which there is no escape, he dashes him upon the ground and lacerates him with his tusks.

He is said to seize a musket and instantly crush the barrel between his teeth. Some hunters are said to have permitted him to take hold of the musket and carry it to his mouth, firing as it passes between his teeth. This will, however, appear to lack probability, though it is stoutly maintained by the natives.

He is said to be always at war with the leopard, which he destroys if he succeeds in seizing him. The leopard, however, by his superior agility, often wears him out. He is said to spring upon the back of the Ngena and lacerate his neck with his teeth, escaping before he can be seized. This animal's savage nature is very well shown by the implacable disposition of a young one that was brought here. It was taken very young and kept four months, and many means were used to tame it, but it was incorrigible, so that it bit me an hour before it died.

The various stories of his building houses in imitation of the natives—his covering himself with bushes, which he hurls upon his antagonist in his attacks; vanquishing the elephant with clubs, or even using clubs at any time, and numerous other accounts given to credulous whites, are considered ridiculous by the best informed natives. Yet every Nipongue man has a fund of such stories which he vends to children and every one else who will listen to them with credulity.

From my most careful inquiries I can find no one who believes that these creatures are of the same original stock as black men, as some have reported. By most it is considered an insult to suppose it.

His flesh is considered delicate eating by the tribes where he is taken, though the Nipongues consider it quite 'vulgar fare.' The *slaves* here, however, carried away the flesh as soon as it was taken from the bones of my specimen."

Dr. Ruschenberger read a portion of his "Notice of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," the remainder of which was deferred to the next meeting.

February 10*th.*

Vice-President WETHERILL in the Chair.

Dr. Ruschenberger concluded the reading of his "Notice of the Academy."

Whereupon the following Resolutions, offered by William S. Vaux, Esq., were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the Members of the Academy have listened with the deepest interest and satisfaction to the "Notice" just read.

ERRATA IN VOL. VI.

Page 2, line 4 from bottom, for *of* read *and*.
“ 3, “ 13 “ top, for *Cretacean* read *Cetacean*.
“ 33, “ 13 and 20 from bottom, for *Nipongue* read *Mpongue*.
“ 36, “ 26 from top, for *undeniable* read *undeniably*.
“ 40, “ 19 “ bottom, for *interstialis* read *interstitialis*.
“ 45, “ 5 “ top, for *thorace* read *thorax*.
“ 46, “ 18 “ bottom, for *simplicibus* read *fulcrantibus*.
“ 48, in division (*b*) of Eucnemis, for *serratæ* read *pectinatæ*.
“ 66, “ 10 from top, for *is* read *are*.
“ 114, “ 2 “ bottom, for *fulvis* read *fulvus*.
“ 141, “ 9 “ bottom, for *generus* read *genus*.
“ 149, in note (†) for *fr* read *für*.
“ 150, the three lines of the diagnosis of Cephennium corporosum have lost the initial letters: to the first add 1, to the second *pl*, to the third *a*.
“ 171, line 2 from bottom, for *Africa* read *America*.
“ 174, “ 22 “ top, for *inferior* read *anterior*.
“ 180, for *Homolosaurus* read *Homalosaurus*.
“ 181, for *Pituophis* read *Pityophis*.
“ 229, line 21 from top, for *Anchytursus* read *Anchytarsus*.
“ “ “ 40 “ top, for *picea* read *brunneus*.
“ 231, after Tostegoptera, for *Edwards* read *Blanchard*.
“ 241, line 15 from top, for *Enbradys* read *Eubradys*.
“ 302, line 13 from top, for 1859 read 1849.
“ 327, “ 31 “ top, for *læniata* read *tæniata*.
“ 329, “ 22 “ top, for *parvus* read *parvulus*, vide p. 414.
“ “ “ 26 “ top, for *Fern* read *Kern*.
“ 337, “ 31 “ top, for *Fauna* read *Faunas*.
“ 368, “ 12 “ top, for *Traünfeld* read *Fraünfeld*.
“ “ “ 29 “ top, for *truncates* read *truncatus*.
“ 377, top line, for —— read *and*.
“ 376, line 17 from bottom, for *Prisidon* read *Prisodon*.
“ 403, “ 2 “ bottom, for *Lyceum* read *State Library*.
“ 439, “ 17 “ bottom, for *Agryppus* read *Agrypnus*.
“ 454, “ 9 “ bottom, for *Endomochydæ* read *Endomychidæ*.
“ lxviii, line 22 from bottom, add *Mr. T. A. Conrad*.
“ lxxiv, line 17 from top, for *Vorselemque* read *Vorlesungen*.

The following omissions of donations to the Library, August 10th, 1852, occurred at page xxxiii:

Description of a Skeleton of the Mastodon giganteus, of North America. By John C. Warren, M. D. 4to. From the Author.

Exploration and Survey of the Valley of the Great Salt Lake of Utah. By Howard Stansbury, Capt. U. S. Topograph. Eng. 8vo. and map. From Col. J. J. Abert.

Experimental Researches in Electricity, 29th series. By Michael Faraday, Esq. From the Author.

On the Physical Character of the Lines of Magnetic Force. By Michael Faraday, Esq. From the Author.

Zoology of the Great Salt Lake of Utah, (extracted from Capt. Stansbury's Report.) From Prof. S. F. Baird.

Geognostische Wanderungen im Gebiete der nordöstlichen Alpen. Von Carl Ehrlich. From the Author.

Ueber die nordöstlichen Alpen. Von Carl Ehrlich. From the Author.